

Grantee: Takotna Community Association, Inc

Project Name: Takotna Rural Power System Upgrade

Grant and Project# 2195404/1088/350289

Grant Completion Report


Background: Takotna has 56 full time residents. Takotna is a mixed population of non-Natives, Ingalik Athabascans, and Eskimos. Subsistence is a prevalent activity. Takotna has been known as Berry Landing, Portage City, Takotna City, Takotna Station, and Tocotna. In 1908, merchants in Bethel hired Arthur Berry to bring supplies up the Takotna River. The village was founded at the farthest point on the river Berry's small sternwheeler was able to reach. By 1912, the community had several stores that supplied miners. Gold discoveries in the upper Innoko Region enabled the town to prosper. By 1919, there were several commercial companies, roadhouses, a post office, and about 50 houses. In 1921 the Alaska Road Commission improved the Takotna-Ophir road, and an airfield was constructed. In 1923 a radio station began broadcasting in Takotna, and the town had its own newspaper, The Kusko Times. Low waters at times precluded the arrival of steamboats, so the Takotna-Sterling Landing road was constructed to the Kuskokwim River in 1930. During the 1930s, however, McGrath became the more dominant supply center, and the ACC store closed. In 1949, construction was begun on nearby Tatalina Air Force Station. It was the site of a White Alice communications system, but operations were phased out during the 1980s.

Takotna is located in Interior Alaska on the north bank of the Takotna River in a broad scenic river valley. 17 air miles west of McGrath in the Kilbuck-Kuskokwim Mountains. Takotna has a cold, continental climate. Summer temperatures average 40 to 80 degrees F, and winter temperatures range from -42 to 0 degrees F. The Takotna River is generally ice-free from June through October.

Activities:

This award provided for the replacement of the electrical distribution system in Takotna, Alaska (Alaska Energy Authority project number 350289). The distribution upgrade in Takotna was formerly part of the Middle Kuskokwim Regional Energy Project (MKREP), however due to budget constraints the distribution upgrade was indefinitely postponed in an effort to control expenditures.

Project Costs:

	Award	Amount	Expended	Remaining	% Exp.
 01088		\$950,000.00	\$778,754.88	\$171,245.12	82%
Total Denali Commission Funding:		\$950,000.00	\$778,754.88	\$171,245.12	82%

Project Outcomes:

Successful replacement of the electrical distribution system. In addition to replacing the existing system distribution was extended to the new residential housing area and the new airport.

Problems Encountered:

During a site visit in 2009 it was discovered that the current system was at secondary voltage. This required the entire system to be replaced, not just repaired or upgraded.

Conclusions and Recommendations:

Successful completed project on time and on budget.